IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claim 1 with the clean version of the amended Claim 1 attached hereto.

Please see the marked-up version of the amended claims also attached hereto to aid the Examiner in identification of the changes.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application before this amendment. By the present amendment, Claim 1 has been amended. Clean and marked-up copies of the amended claim are attached hereto. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,896,253 (Dirne). The "et al." suffix appearing after a reference name is omitted.

Applicants respectfully first note that the amended Claim 1 reciting that a base layer made of a **non-magnetic** material (Specification page 5, lines 18-19) can be distinguished from the Dirne's "substrate 1," which is made from a magnetic material (Dirne col. 3, line 40).

Second, it is respectfully submitted that the statement in the Office Action (page 2, Item 2) indicating that Dirne's "insulation layer 25" teaches the claimed limitation of the non-magnetic layer 36 is incorrect. Dirne rather discloses a multiple layered "layer structure 2 composed of magnetic layers, electric layers and insulation layers" (Dirne col. 3, lines 41-43). Dirne's "insulation layer 25" is one layer among the multiple layers of the "layer structure 2." Thus, the claimed **single** non-magnetic layer for accommodating the thin

magnetic film head having yokes, electrodes, MR heads, etc. is distinguished from the multiple layer structure element 25 of Dirne.

Third, Claim 1 recites the structure of the magnetic gap 42 with respect to the lower and upper yokes 40, 41 as they are exposed on the slider surface 55, which is substantitally different from Dirne.

The claimed magnetic gap 42, as amended, is exposed between the ends of the upper and lower yokes that are situated in parallel with each other on the slider surface 55 (see pg. 6, lines 15-19). This structure, however, is not shown or disclosed in Dirne. Unlike the presently claimed invention where **both** the claimed lower and upper yokes 40 and 41 are exposed on the surface of the slider surface 55, Dirne shows that the element 19B (which is indicated as showing the claimed lower yoke in the Office Action) is buried beneath the insulating layer 25. Only the upper yoke 19A is exposed on the head face 5 of Dirne.

Further, Dirne does not disclose the claimed magnetic gap 42 defined by the lower and upper yokes 40, 41, both of which are exposed on the slider face 55, because Dirne's element 19B is not exposed on the head face 5.

In addition, the claimed auxiliary member is also made of a non-magnetic material (similar to the base member). In Dirne, the substrate 1 is made of a magnetic material that is different from the non-magnetic material of the auxiliary member. This provides significant advantage over Dirne since the non-magnetic materials of the claimed base member and the auxiliary member are generally known to have good abrasion resistance quality, which Dirne fails as it fails to disclose a non-magnetic material in the manner as claimed.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3, pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. This

amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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DOCKET: CU-2130 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:	Yasuhiko SHINJO et al.	]
Serial No:	09/504,964	] GRP ART UNIT: 2652
Filed:	February 16, 2000	] Ex.: Tianjie CHEN
For:	MAGNETIC HEAD DEVICE	] AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

CLAIMS-MARKED UP VERSION

1. **(Twice Amended)** A magnetic head device comprising:

a base member **made of a non-magnetic material**;

a thin-film magnetic head, which is in contact with the base member and is accommodated in a **single** non-magnetic layer, **[with a magnetic gap being exposed, wherein the]** **and which** thin-film magnetic head comprises a lower yoke, a magnetoresistive element, an upper yoke, and electrode terminals;

an auxiliary member **made of a non-magnetic material** which sandwiches the non-magnetic layer between the auxiliary member and the base member; and

a slider surface on which magnetic tape slides in one of a first direction along which the base member, the non-magnetic layer, and the auxiliary member are arranged, and a second direction which is inclined at a predetermined angle to the first direction, **wherein a magnetic gap is exposed on the slider surface between the ends of the upper and lower yokes that are situated in parallel with each other on the slider surface**.